

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 295458
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:BAFLECK:PAW

APPROVED BY EA:RBOAKLEY

EA/RA:FBENNETT (SUBSTANCE)

H:ASWIFT (SUBSTANCE)

HA:KHILL (SUBSTANCE)

-----006816 111010Z /21

R 100337Z DEC 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: AQUINO CASE: CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

1. EA/PHL HAS JUST RECEIVED FROM STEVE PSINAKIS TEXT OF
LETTER DATED DECEMBER 2 APPARENTLY SENT DIRECTLY TO
MARCOS BY SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON.

2. VERBATIM TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I AM WRITING TO EXPRESS MY
DEEP CONCERN OVER THE CASE OF FORMER PHILIPPINE SENATOR
BENIGNO S. AQUINO, JR. AS YOU KNOW, SENATOR AQUINO, A
PROMINENT AND OUTSPOKEN POLITICAL OPPONENT OF YOUR GOVERN-
MENT, WAS RECENTLY CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO DEATH BY A
MILITARY TRIBUNAL.

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QUOTE WHILE I UNDERSTAND THAT HIS TRIAL WILL BE REOPENED
DECEMBER 5, AS YOU PERSONALLY ORDERED, I AM CONCERNED
WHETHER SENATOR AQUINO CAN RECEIVE A FAIR HEARING GIVEN
THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HIS CASE.

QUOTE SENATOR AQUINO WAS ARRESTED IN 1972 AT THE TIME

MARTIAL LAW WAS IMPOSED ON CHARGES OF SUBVERSION, MURDER AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS. HOWEVER, ONE FULL YEAR BEFORE SENATOR AQUINO'S ARREST, YOU PUBLICLY EXPRESSED YOUR VIEW ON NATIONAL TELEVISION THAT THE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM WAS "NOT ONLY STRONG BUT OVERWHELMING". SENATOR AQUINO HAS CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED HIS INNOCENCE. DURING HIS DETENTION IN AN ARMY PRISON, SENATOR AQUINO HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO TRIAL BEFORE A MILITARY TRIBUNAL -- NOT A CIVIL COURT -- CONSISTING OF MEMBERS WHO, UNDER MARTIAL LAW, ARE RESPONSIBLE TO YOU. THE FACT THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY COURT ARE NOT ONLY AWARE OF YOUR OWN OPINION REGARDING SENATOR AQUINO'S CASE BUT ARE, AT THE SAME TIME, YOUR SUBORDINATES GRAVELY IMPAIRS THE OBJECTIVITY OF THE COURT IN RENDERING A JUST AND UNBIASED JUDGMENT.

QUOTE IN AN ELOQUENT ADDRESS ON MAY 30, 1977, YOU STATED THAT YOUR COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IS AN "IRREVOCABLE ONE". AGAIN ON JUNE 3 YOU REITERATED THAT "WE SHALL TRY TO MATCH THE EFFORTS OF THE BIG NATIONS IN SECURING FOR HUMAN DIGNITY THE HIGHEST PLACE IN THE HIERARCHY OF VALUES AMONG OUR PEOPLE."

QUOTE AS A MEASURE OF THAT COMMITMENT OF WHICH YOU SPOKE SO FORCEFULLY, I URGE YOU TO PERMIT SENATOR AQUINO TO LEAVE THE PHILIPPINES AS A POLITICAL EXILE. I BELIEVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT IN SO DOING YOU WOULD BE SHOWING THE WORLD YOUR INTENTION TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS VIGOROUSLY IN THE PHILIPPINES. IT COULD BE A GREAT GESTURE OF COMPASSION AND JUSTICE.

QUOTE WITH BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, ALAN CRANSTON END QUOTE
END VERBATIM TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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